

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

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FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3041

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CASABLANCA 837

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, MO

SUBJECT: OIM MARKET RESEARCH: TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND
SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT

REF: A) STATE 188967; B) TUNIS 4988

1. WE CONCUR IN ASSESSMENT PRESENTED REF A AND AGREE THAT ALGERIAN PORTION OF BEEGI'S MARKET SURVEY SHOULD BE CANCELLED. IT IS OUR VIEW, AND THAT OF LOCAL LAWYER WHOM WE CONSULTED INFORMALLY, THAT ARTICLE 2 WHICH DISAVOWS RESPONSIBILITY OF USG TO ASSUME OBLIGATION OF CONVERTIBILITY AND ARTICLE 3 GOVERNING DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION OF SURVEY ARE SUFFICIENT JUSTIFICATIONS TO TERMINATE CONTRACT.

2. IT IS CONTENTION OF BEEGI'S GENERAL MANAGER THAT USG IS OBLIGED TO PRESENT PAYMENT IN CASABLANCA ALBEIT IN THE FORM OF TUNISIAN DINAR CHECK. (APPARENTLY, BEEGI BELIEVES HE CAN EFFECT CONVERTIBILITY OF FUNDS THROUGH HIS BANKERS WITHOUT REQUIRED GOT AUTHORIZATION.) EVEN THOUGH CONTRACT DOES NOT SPECIFY PAYMENT IS TO BE MADE IN TUNIS, BEEGI'S CONTENTION IS ACADEMIC GIVEN GOM AND GOT FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTROLS, AND THAT BEEGI DOES NOT HAVE TUNISIAN ASSOCIATE TO WHOM HE CAN GIVE CHECK IN ORDER ARRANGE TRANSFER OF FUNDS

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FROM TUNISIA TO MOROCCO. NEVERTHELESS, TO FACILITATE

TERMINATING CONTRACT WE URGE THAT GOT BE REQUESTED TO GRANT ONE-TIME EXCEPTION WHEREBY WE CAN GIVE BEEGI CHECK FOR TUNISIAN DINARS 2,494 REPRESENTING TOTAL AMOUNT DUE FOR MOROCCAN COUNTRY PACKAGE; AND AUTHORIZATION WHICH WILL FACILITATE CONVERTIBILITY AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS.

3. DESPITE OUR NOT HAVING ANY OBLIGATION TO ASSIST BEEGI IN CONVERTING DINAR PAYMENT, GOT COOPERATION WILL GREATLY EASE JOB OF NEGOTIATING TERMINATION OF CONTRACT AND HOPEFULLY OBVIATE ANY CLAIM BY BEEGI THAT IT IS ENTITLED TO PERFORM ALGERIAN PORTION OF SURVEY.
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